



Government of Western Australia
Department of Commerce

Life Sciences West

Western Australian Biotechnology Update

Issue 1 April 2009

BioPharmica - New Diagnostic System and a Cancer Therapeutic Discovery

BioPharmica has successfully completed the Diagnostic Array Systems (DAS) project, BacTrak™.

BacTrak™ is a diagnostic genetic microarray that will be used to identify the microbial pathogens that can cause a range of lung diseases.

In 2007, BioPharmica won an AusIndustry Commercial Ready Grant for clinical funding and have since completed the terms of the grant and met its objectives to develop BacTrak™.

BacTrak™ has a number of features that will benefit healthcare, including:

- results within hours rather than days using the current culture gold standard;
- sensitivity and positive confirmation for the 16 pathogens from easily obtained clinical sputum samples;
- earlier, appropriate treatment;
- shorter length of hospital stay;
- earlier potential isolation of hospital patients; and
- reduction in the over-prescription of broad-spectrum antibiotics.

In another good news story for BioPharmica, a team of expert cancer cell biology researchers at the company have used state-of-the art technology to screen synthetic molecules and natural extracts for new anti-cancer drugs.

Using high-content imaging and computational analyses, these drug screening efforts have now yielded a new class of potential anti-cancer drugs. The new anti-cancer drugs potentially inhibit cell proliferation, resulting in pronounced killing of all human cancer cell lines tested to date.

Recent results with the anti-mitotic lead compound identified by researchers at BioPharmica, have indicated that the development of this drug has the potential to make a similar pronounced impact on cancer treatments and outcomes.

For more information, please visit www.biopharmica.com.au



Pictured: Dr Steven Feng Shi and research assistant
drugs
working on the Diagnostic Array System



Pictured: Dr Robin Scaife working on new anti cancer